

Remarks

The Applicants have amended the specification and the abstract to place them into final condition for allowance. Entry into the official file is respectfully requested.

The Applicants note with appreciation the allowability of Claims 2-4 and 9-24.

The Applicants have amended Claims 3, 4, 9 and 10 into independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claim 2 and is now allowable. Claims 2, 8 and 20 have been cancelled. The dependency of Claim 6 has been amended to account for the cancellation of Claim 2. Claims 11 – 18 have been amended to depend from Claim 9 in view of the cancellation of Claim 8.

The Applicants further note with appreciation the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 5-8 under 35 USC §102 over Ogata.

Claims 1 and 5-8 now stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being obvious over Ogata. The Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's detailed comments hypothetically applying Ogata against those claims. The Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Claim 1 is now allowable since it contains the subject matter of Claim 2, Claims 5-7 are allowable since they depend directly or indirectly from allowable Claim 3, and Claim 8 has been cancelled. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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